

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 02478 300334Z

71-62

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 BIB-01 EUR-12 AGR-05 EB-07

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /083 W

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R 300245Z DEC 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4958

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, SOPN, CH, US

SUBJECT: PEKING TV USES U.S. TV NEWS FOOTAGE

1. PEKING TELEVISION'S "INTERNATIONAL NEWS" EVENING

DECEMBER 28 CARRIED TWO REPORTS USING FILM SEGMENTS
FROM U.S. TELEVISION NEWS.

2. FIRST REPORT, TITLED "THE SOVIET UNION FRANTICALLY
PURCHASES U.S. GRAIN", PRESENTED SCENES OF GRAIN-
LOADING AT U.S. PORTS AND GRAIN-TRADING ON CHICAGO
GRAIN MARKET. CHINESE COMMENTARY WAS STANDARD ANTI-
SOVIET INVECTIVE LARDED WITH STATISTICS POINTING OUT SOVIET
FAILURES ON AGRICULTURAL FRONT. MOST EGREGIOUS
ABUSE OF JOURNALISTIC LICENSE TO DRIVE A POINT HOME
CAME IN SCENES OF CHICAGO GRAIN MART'S PIT ACTIVITY,
WHICH SHOWED BROKERS ENGAGED IN FRANTIC TRADING.
COMMENTATOR IDENTIFIED THE LOCATION, THEN WENT ON
TO DESCRIBE USSR'S GRIM FOOD SHORTAGE AND MASSIVE
EFFORTS TO BUY GRAIN ABROAD, LEAVING IMPRESSION
THAT PUSHING, SHOIVING, WILDLY GESTICULATING
GRAIN BROKERS WERE PANIC-RIDDEN SOVIET PURCHASE
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AGENTS BENT ON BUYING GRAIN AT ANY PRICE.

3. SECOND REPORT, TITLED "AMERICAN ECONOMY SINKS EVER DEEPER INTO DEPRESSION", PAINTED A PARTICULARLY GREY PICTURE OF U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL FERMENT, USING NEWSFILM OF UNEMPLOYMENT LINES, STRIKING WORKERS, AND DEMONSTRATORS. ADDITIONAL FOOTAGE OF SLUM AREAS IN U.S. CITIES MAY HAVE COME OUT OF PEKING TV'S OWN FILM LIBRARY, SINCE IT DID NOT HAVE THE STANDARD U.S. TV NEWS CAPTIONS CONTAINED IN OTHER SCENES IN BOTH REPORTS.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST TIME WE HAVE SEEN AMERICAN BORROWINGS ON PRC TELEVISION. GIVEN AMERICAN TV'S WIDE-OPEN BRAND OF JOURNALISM, HOWEVER, IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE PRCUN OR PRCLO STAFFERS WITH THEIR VTRS GLEEFULLY PIRATING THE EVENING NEWS FOR MORE FOOTAGE THAT, WITH THE ADDITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMENTARY, CAN BE SERVED TO THE PEOPLE BACK HOME. THAYER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: INFORMATION MEDIA, PROPAGANDA, FILMS, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, INFLATION, TELEVISION BROADCASTING, GRAINS
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Draft Date: 30 DEC 1975
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Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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